

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**April 18, 2013**  
**9 a.m., MHS Auditorium**  
**Helena, Montana**

**Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present:** Steve Lozar, Crystal Wong Shors, Lee Rostad, Shirley Groff, John Lepley, Jim Murry, Sharon Lincoln, Jim Court, Kent Kleinkopf, Ed Smith, Bob Brown, B. Leslie Halligan, Janene Caywood and Tom Nygard

President Lozar asked that George Horse Capture's name be called in roll call. George was a past member of the Board of Trustees and he recently passed away.

**MHS Board of Trustee members excused were:** Jim Utterback

**Staff present:** MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Development Officer, Susan Near; MHS Public Relations Manager, Tom Cook; MHS Membership Coordinator Rebecca Baumann; MHS Museum Senior Curator of Collections, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney; MHS State Historic Preservation Program Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS State Archeologist Stan Wilmoth; MHS Assistant Editor, Christy Echerle; MHS Centralized Services Program Administrator, Denise King; MHS Outreach & Interpretation Program Specialist, Deb Mitchell; and MHS Photo Archives Manager, Lory Morrow; MHS Museum Collections Manager, Photo Achivist, Matthew Peek; MHS Collections Manager Amanda Streeter Trum; MHS Accession Archivist, Rachel Lilly; and MHS Financial Office Accountant, Jennifer Thompson.

**Guest present:** Montana History Foundation Executive Director, Amy Sullivan.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Steve Lozar called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Jim Murry moved approval of the January 24, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Sharon Lincoln and carried unanimously.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Steve Lozar**

President Lozar thanked Bruce Whittenberg and staff for the long hours of service to MHS during the Legislative session. He noted that there have been some pluses during this Legislative session and the most notable plus is everyone knows MHS needs a new building. President Lozar thanked Bruce for his leadership skills and he thanked the staff for their willingness to pitch in, often times at the last minute. He asked Bruce to give a Legislative report.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce presented a snapshot of how MHS fared in this Legislative session explaining that the MHS budget as presented is whole. A full time security guard position was granted, compact storage in the archives was granted, increasing storage up to 25% in this building, and the money needed to improve the Old Governor's Mansion was granted. A 2% vacancy savings across the board for all state agencies has been implemented. Denise commented that she has requested a narrative on this impact. Bruce explained that HB 14 (bonding bill) which included the proposed Montana Heritage Building failed to pass. He discussed options for the MHS building noting that as of this date it is not included in any legislation. It appears that the Legislators did not want to see a bonding bill. Bruce noted that the Governor has stated that he would like to see the building of the Montana Heritage Center go forward.

Bruce stated that the Legislators and their staff work very hard during the session and he appreciated seeing the process. He encouraged everyone to attend a session during the Legislature. Bruce noted that at one point, during the Legislature, the comment was made that MHS was being taken out of HB 14 because it wasn't an educational institution. Bruce presented a handout (made a permanent part of the record) which he distributed to the Legislators giving the MHS mission statement and examples of educational programming by the MHS.

Bruce continued his update. He highlighted the MHS core values, critical issues, security, progress on the upcoming Charles Russell book, core of advisors (36 advisory Board members) and proposed a reception in September to get the new advisory Board members together. Bruce suggested that the MHS Board of Trustees and staff consider meeting for a retreat on July 17<sup>th</sup> (possibly 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) and a staff/Board picnic that evening. July 18<sup>th</sup> would be the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting.

### **Membership – Rebecca Baumann**

Rebecca said that new membership is up by 12% and donations that accompany membership renewals are up by 85%. The new membership total is 2,063.

### **Marketing and Development – Susan Near**

Susan commented she is focusing her efforts on building MHS relationships with supporters. She wants to acknowledge their importance making them feel more a part of what we do here at the MHS. Even though there isn't a formal campaign, donations continue to come in for the Montana Heritage Center.

Susan reported that the Mulvaney Post Card Collection received over \$19,000 from the annual appeal fundraiser. There are pledges coming in also for this collection. MHS is most grateful for these donations.

An example of a Capitol Complex project that Susan is working on is the Woman's Mural. Susan announced that the Montana History Foundation and MHS are working together in collecting donations for this project.

Susan has been working on sponsorships for the Second Saturday events at the MHS and will be looking for sponsors for the History Conference. She has prepared a promo pack (handouts) for those traveling around the State. You can stop by her office if you need a packet. Susan also explained that Kirby Lambert put together a nice power point program which she has copies of for handouts.

President Lozar commented that Rebecca and Susan are excited about what they do for the MHS and he encouraged everyone to stop by their office and visit them.

#### **MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION REPORT – Amy Sullivan**

Amy presented the 2012 annual report from the Foundation (handout made a permanent part of the record).

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS – Tom Cook**

Tom prepared a media review showing how he is getting the good word and the good work out about the Society. He commented that the MHS does projects that touch the state. It's the little stories that make up the State of Montana. There is a lot of excitement in Eastern Montana that the history conference will be held there this year. He continues to get the word out in all the newspapers about what happens here at the MHS.

#### **PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS**

##### **PUBLICATION PROGRAM – Christy Eckerle**

Christy was reporting for Molly Holz. Molly is attending a conference. Christy explained social media efforts being used at the MHS. She gave a Facebook and a Twitter tutorial.

##### **MUSEUM PROGRAM – Amanda Trum**

Amanda presented a preview of items that will be placed in the MHS upcoming exhibit titled "domestic economy". She discussed some of the 100 top items in the collection that are being conserved at this time.

##### **RESEARCH CENTER- Lory Morrow**

Molly Kruckenberg is giving a presentation at the State Library and asked Lory Morrow to give the Research Center report. Lory introduced Matthew Peek. Matthew is working on the Lee Metcalf collection of photos. Matthew is working on a two year grant which is funded by the Library and Information Services. Jim Murry commented that he had some photos he would like to put into the Lee Metcalf collection.

For show and tell Rachel Lilly presented a pocket diary dated 1868, owned by J. Butler, a confederate soldier that came to Montana in search of his fortune in gold. In the back of the

diary there is a list of costs for items like shoes, haircut, and beer. Rachel noted anyone could come to the archives to view this diary.

Lory further reported that the James Bradley Fellowships have been awarded. There were 18 fellowships with three awards being given.

#### **Motion on April, 2013 Deaccession List**

**Ed Smith moved approval of the April, 2013 Deaccession List. Jim Murry seconded the motion which carried unanimously.**

#### **STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE - Mark Baumler**

Mark introduced Stan Wilmoth. Stan presented a handout (handout made a permanent part of the record) titled "What to do when human skeletal remains are found on state or private lands". Stan explained that the State Burial Board produced the brochure as a guide for coroners, local law enforcement and property owners. In 1991, the Legislature passed the law forming a Burial Preservation Board. Upon discovery of skeletal remains the law requires that secure records must be collected and contained.

President Lozar noted that the Indian nations are very pleased working with Stan. He brings to his position a sensitivity that is highly respected.

#### **OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Deb Mitchell**

Deb announced that Kirby Lambert was in Texas working on the Charlie Russell book. A handout (handout made a permanent part of the record) titled "Museums and Schools as Co-Educators Partnership between the MHS and OPI/IEFA" was distributed to each Board member by Deb Mitchell. She highlighted the many activities taking place in the Outreach and Interpretation Program and the many communities benefiting from the partnership of the MHS/OPI. AASLH has recognized this partnership honoring the MHS with an Award of Merit in 2012. Deb further explained that the OPI/Indian Education for All is a unique partnership formed inviting museums to team with their local school districts for a two-fold purpose. This partnership improves the preservation and interpretation of American Indian artifacts and explores ways for museums and schools to become co-educators.

#### **2013 HERITAGE KEEPERS AWARD – Motion**

Sharon Lincoln discussed the applications received for the Heritage Keepers award. There were 12 applications this year. Shirley Groff explained that Edgar Richardson developed a pioneer town in Scobey, Montana in 1997. He brought in 35 buildings placing them on 20 acres. He gives tours of the town anytime someone wants to see the town. He is a community hero. The committee unanimously chose Edgar Richardson, from Scobey as the outstanding 2013 Heritage Keeper for the Eastern part of Montana.

**Tom Nygard moved to select Edgar Richardson as the 2013 recipient of the MHS Board of Trustees Heritage Keepers Award for the Eastern portion of the State of Montana. Jack**

**Lepley seconded the motion with all members voting in favor except for Janene Caywood. Janene explained that she is sure Mr. Richardson is worthy of this award for emphasis on his work in the community. She explained that she has worked for historic preservation for 30 years and the moving of historic buildings from their original foundations is against the rules. She stressed the importance of valuing the resources in their original settings.**

Bob Brown stated that Chris Fisk, Butte, Montana was chosen for the 2013 MHS Board of Trustees Heritage Keepers award from the Western portion of the State of Montana. He is a legend in his own time as a teacher in the State of Montana. He is amazing for the work he does outside of the classroom as well as the work he does inside the classroom. He was chosen two years ago as the national history teacher of the year by the Daughters of the Revolution. Mr. Fisk gives of his own time all summer by giving tours of Butte.

**Bob Brown moved to select Chris Fisk as recipient of the 2013 MHS Board of Trustees Heritage Keeper Award for the Western portion of the State of Montana. Crystal Wong Shors seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CENTRAL SERVICES – Motion - Denise King**

Denise introduced Jennifer Thompson.

Denise presented the financial schedules for FY 2013 through March 31, 2013 (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Denise reported that the Attorney General's Office has asked the Board to make an exception for request of artwork in the office. She and Amanda Trum met with an AG employee and offered to place a maquette and some framed photos from the Evelyn Cameron Collection in the office but the offer was rejected. Amanda discussed the current outgoing loan policy. She outlined the locations approved for art loans. A handout was distributed (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Bob Brown asked what exception is being asked for by the Attorney General's Office. Denise explained they are asking to view the artwork at the MHS they can make a selection of what they want to display. Amanda said the recommendation of the Museum Program is that the Board should deny this request. Under the current policy there are five offices listed which are illegible to receive artwork and all of these offices have public access. Ed Smith said there is no security in the Attorney General's Office. If this request were to be granted it would have to be granted for every office in the capital complex. Amanda explained that the Museum Program does not have the staff resources to maintain these kinds of requests.

**Jim Murry moved approval of the staff's recommendation to deny the request of the Attorney General's Office for loan of artwork from the MHS collection. Crystal Wong Shors seconded the motion. Bruce Whittenberg concurred. He stated the MHS simply doesn't**

have the staff to service that broad of an area and agreed we must stick to the outgoing loan policy. **The motion carried unanimously.**

### **NEW BUSINESS – Bruce Whittenberg**

#### **Strategic Planning Retreat**

Bruce suggested July 17, 2013 for the Board retreat. In order for Bruce to participate with the team he will contact a facilitator. He suggested starting the retreat at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. July 18<sup>th</sup> would be the regularly scheduled Board of Trustee's meeting. The Board was in consensus with this timeline.

President Lozar (term expiring July, 2017) stated he has been reappointed to the Board and he congratulated Kent Kleinkopf (term expiring July, 2017) and Leslie Halligan (term expiring July, 2017) for being reappointed by the Governor to serve another term on the Board of Trustees.

President Lozar asked the Board members to say good-bye to Lee Rostad. Lee decided at the end of her term not to ask to be reappointed. The Board presented Lee with a gift and thanked her for her years of service to the MHS. Bruce asked Lee to attend a staff meeting so the staff could thank her for the years of service she has given to the MHS.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING – July 18, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - Executive Committee – 8:00 a.m.**

#### **Strategic Planning Retreat – July 17, 2013 10:00 a.m. – Boo Auditorium**

#### **Employee/Board Picnic, Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds, July 17, 2013, 5:00 p.m.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

2:15 p.m.